

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I thought I would have another speaker in the form of the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), who is the author of this bill, but he is at the White House at an important meeting, and I am sure he will insert remarks in the RECORD outlining his support for this legislation.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Real Interstate Driver Equity Act of 2001, H.R. 2546, as amended by the Senate.

This legislation has been under consideration for more than 3 years now, and I am glad that we have been able to find a fair and agreeable solution in the waning days of the 107th Congress.

I want to especially recognize my colleague from Missouri, Mr. BLUNT, who sponsored this bill and has championed the cause of for-hire motor carriers. I believe this legislation will remove barriers to passenger choice and effective management of transportation services.

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by thanking the gentleman from Missouri Mr. BLUNT, without whom this legislation would not have gotten on the floor; his legislative skill and his partnership in this effort are truly appreciated, and I thank the gentleman for his work.

I also want to thank my friend and constituent Don Kensey who first brought this to my attention several years ago in my office in New Jersey with various members of the National Limousine Association and the South Jersey Limousine Association.

I am extremely pleased to see that the other body has favorably passed H.R. 2546. The Real Interstate Driver Equity Act, REAL Act, embodies the tireless efforts of many interested parties in upholding Congress' longstanding commitment to the free-flow of goods and services across this Nation. The unnecessary burdens of interstate restrictions on the sedan and limousine industry, of which over 80 percent are small businesses, will now be removed with the passage of H.R. 2546.

In a time where there is much uncertainty about the state of our economy, this legislation provides small business owners with a chance to compete on a fair playing field. Fairness, that is long overdue.

Again, I would like to extend my many thanks to the gentleman from Missouri, Mr. BLUNT, other colleagues and my constituents for their underlying help in bringing the REAL Act to the House floor today. I urge my colleagues to give an affirmative vote and pass this legislation.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, traveling by limousine is increasingly popular among business travelers who appreciate the security and predictability that come with pre-arranged limousine and sedan service. Women are increasingly turning to these services because they provide a measure of safety and security that is not always found by hailing a cab in a strange city.

A substantial portion of their service occurs interstate. Limousine and other prearranged ground transportation service providers are frequently assessed registration and licensing fees by these other states. Enforcement of these requirements, including vehicle impoundment and heavy fines, has caused tremendous hardship to drivers and owners of

these businesses, many of which are small, single vehicle operations, over 80 percent, are 1- to 3-car operators grossing less than \$500,000 a year.

H.R. 2546 rectifies this burden. It prohibits states other than a home licensing state from enacting or enforcing a law requiring a fee or some other payment requirements on vehicles that provide prearranged ground transportation service.

H.R. 2546 prohibits States or localities from restricting limousine or sedan services if: (1) the service is registered with the Department of Transportation as an interstate carrier; (2) the company meets all the requirements of the state in which they are domicile or do business; and (3) the limousine or sedan service is engaged in providing pre-arranged transportation from one state to another, including round trips.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KOLBE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 2546.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendments were concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2546.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

#### IMPROPER PAYMENTS INFORMATION ACT OF 2002

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 4878) to provide for estimates and reports of improper payments by Federal agencies.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Improper Payments Information Act of 2002".*

##### SEC. 2. ESTIMATES OF IMPROPER PAYMENTS AND REPORTS ON ACTIONS TO REDUCE THEM.

(a) **IDENTIFICATION OF SUSCEPTIBLE PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.**—The head of each agency shall, in accordance with guidance prescribed by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, annually review all programs and activities that it administers and identify all such programs and activities that may be susceptible to significant improper payments.

(b) **ESTIMATION OF IMPROPER PAYMENT.**—With respect to each program and activity identified under subsection (a), the head of the agency concerned shall—

(1) estimate the annual amount of improper payments; and

(2) submit those estimates to Congress before March 31 of the following applicable year, with all agencies using the same method of reporting, as determined by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(c) **REPORTS ON ACTIONS TO REDUCE IMPROPER PAYMENTS.**—With respect to any program or activity of an agency with estimated improper payments under subsection (b) that exceed \$10,000,000, the head of the agency shall provide with the estimate under subsection (b) a report on what actions the agency is taking to reduce the improper payments, including—

(1) a discussion of the causes of the improper payments identified, actions taken to correct those causes, and results of the actions taken to address those causes;

(2) a statement of whether the agency has the information systems and other infrastructure it needs in order to reduce improper payments to minimal cost-effective levels;

(3) if the agency does not have such systems and infrastructure, a description of the resources the agency has requested in its budget submission to obtain the necessary information systems and infrastructure; and

(4) a description of the steps the agency has taken to ensure that agency managers (including the agency head) are held accountable for reducing improper payments.

(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—For the purposes of this section:

(1) **AGENCY.**—The term "agency" means an executive agency, as that term is defined in section 102 of title 31, United States Code.

(2) **IMPROPER PAYMENT.**—The term "improper payment"—

(A) means any payment that should not have been made or that was made in an incorrect amount (including overpayments and underpayments) under statutory, contractual, administrative, or other legally applicable requirements; and

(B) includes any payment to an ineligible recipient, any payment for an ineligible service, any duplicate payment, payments for services not received, and any payment that does not account for credit for applicable discounts.

(3) **PAYMENT.**—The term "payment" means any payment (including a commitment for future payment, such as a loan guarantee) that is—

(A) made by a Federal agency, a Federal contractor, or a governmental or other organization administering a Federal program or activity; and

(B) derived from Federal funds or other Federal resources or that will be reimbursed from Federal funds or other Federal resources.

(e) **APPLICATION.**—This section—

(1) applies with respect to the administration of programs, and improper payments under programs, in fiscal years after fiscal year 2002; and

(2) requires the inclusion of estimates under subsection (b)(2) only in annual budget submissions for fiscal years after fiscal year 2003.

(f) **GUIDANCE BY THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.**—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall prescribe guidance to implement the requirements of this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4878.